



AMERICAN
ENGLISH

Writing

Level 2 - Ep8



A.

Skill Presentation

A complex sentence has two parts:

- An independent clause is one part of the complex sentence.
- A dependent clause is the other part.

When you join a dependent clause and an independent clause, you make a complex sentence.

- Michael travels a lot because he is a businessman.

Note: to join dependent clause and independent clause, we need to use a conjunction.

We talked about conjunctions like (and - for - so - but). These conjunctions are not used with complex sentences. They are used with compound sentences.



Writing



As mentioned, compound sentences are sentences with two subject-verb groups.

- I woke up late, so I didn't catch the bus.

In compound sentences, we can use conjunctions like (and, for, so, but, etc.)

However, in complex sentences, we don't use these words. We use another kind of conjunctions.

Words like (because - when - if - after) they are used with complex sentences.

- Mona learned Turkish because she works in Turkey.
- Dave will spend more time in Cairo if he travels to Egypt again.
- Steve follows Egyptian customs when he visits Egypt.

Do we always start the sentence with an independent clause?

No, you can start the sentence with a conjunction followed by the dependent clause.

- Because she works in Turkey, Mona learned Turkish.
- If he travels to Egypt again, Dave will spend more time in Cairo.
- When he visits Egypt, Steve follows Egyptian customs.

Notice if we start with the conjunction, we follow that up with the dependent clause and we add a comma between the clauses.



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B.

Over to You

1. Read each clause in the chart. Decide if it is independent or dependent. Check (✓) the box in the correct column.

	Independent Clause	Dependent Clause
1. Because he is in a meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. When she visited China.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Paolo speaks Portuguese and Russian.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Jin shakes Natalia's hand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Because her mother is from Quebec.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Because it shows bad manners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Abena nods her head.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. If he does not understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Check!

1. A _____ sentence has an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by a _____ such as because, if, or when.

2. Both _____ have a subject and a verb, but a dependent clause does not _____ a complete idea. An independent clause expresses a complete idea.



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B.

Over to You

3. Check (✓) The complex sentence in each item.

1-

- a. Paula looked at Ana.
- b. Paula looked at Ana, but Ana did not look at Paula.
- c. Ana studied Spanish and spoke it in Ecuador.

2-

- a. Ana studied Spanish, but Tomas studied French.
- b. Ana met Tomas when they were in college.
- c. Paula and Ana looked at each other when they met.

3-

- a. Carlo felt guilty, so he crossed his arms.
- b. Carlo and Tina argued today.
- c. Carlo is sad because he argued with Tina.

4-

- a. Antonio bowed to Kazuo when they met.
- b. Antonio and Kazuo bowed to each other.
- c. Antonio introduced himself, and Kazuo bowed.

5-

- a. Marisa and Ken shook hands at the meeting.
- b. Marisa shook Ken's hand, and he introduced himself.
- c. Marisa shook hands with Ken when they met.



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C.

Practice

1-

A. Underline the dependent clause in each complex sentence.

1. People should learn Turkish customs if they want to work in Turkey.
2. Jim learns new customs when he travels.
3. I didn't like the movie because I didn't like the message in it.
4. Face-to-face conversations are usually clearer because it is easier to tell if someone doesn't understand you.
5. Your listener will relax if you smile when you talk.

B. Now underline the independent clause in each complex sentence.

6. Many people make gestures with their hands when they speak.
7. It is important to learn about the local customs when you do business.
8. Body language is an important part of any conversation because people often respond to what you do more than to what you say.
9. In job interviews, it is important to look directly at interviewers if you want them to trust you.
10. Remember that communication is not just speaking because your eyes, hands, and body also "say" a lot.



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C.

Practice

2- Read the text. How many complex sentences are there?
Check (✓) the correct answer.

¹Pedro will move to Vietnam if he finds a job there.
²Now he is trying to learn more about Vietnamese culture. ³He attends Vietnamese language classes three times a week. ⁴He is also reading a book about Vietnamese business customs. According to the book:

- ⁵He should bring a small gift to business meetings.
- ⁶He should shake hands with people when he meets them.
- ⁷He should hold his business card in both hands when he gives it to someone.
- ⁸He should make appointments in advance.
- ⁹He should get to know people first if he wants to build business relationships with them.
- ¹⁰It will be easier to meet new people if he makes contacts before he goes to Vietnam.
- ¹¹He should learn at least a few words of Vietnamese.
- ¹²He should never point at another person in Vietnam.

- a. There are two complex sentences. Sentences: _____
- b. There are three complex sentences. Sentences: _____
- c. There are five complex sentences. Sentences: _____



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The Answer

B. Over to You

1-

1. dependent clause
2. dependent clause
3. independent clause
4. dependent clause
5. independent clause
6. dependent clause

2-

1. complex, conjunction
2. clauses, express

3-

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. c

C. Practice

1-

A.

1. if they want to work in Turkey
2. when he travels
3. because I didn't like the message in it
4. because it is easier to tell if someone doesn't understand you
5. if you smile when you talk

B.

6. Many people make gestures with their hands
7. It is important to learn about the local customs
8. Body language is an important part of any conversation
9. In job interviews, it is important to look directly at interviewers
10. Remember that communication is not just speaking

2-

Sentences: 1, 6, 7, 9, 10